

**OFFICE OF SELECTMEN  
6 HOLLAND STREET  
PO BOX 139  
MOULTONBOROUGH, NH 03254**

**Selectmen's Meeting**

**January 28, 2010**

**MINUTES**

Present: Selectmen: Karel A. Crawford, Joel R. Mudgett, Edward J. Charest, James F. Gray;  
Carter Terenzini, Town Administrator.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Chair spoke of a letter that had been drafted to the NH House Finance Committee to oppose the elimination of the "collar" keeping the donor town tax burden from kicking back in 2011. Joel moved, Betsey seconded to approve and submit the letter as drafted. All in favor.

I. Road Program Hearing: Scott Kinmond, Highway Agent made a presentation on the Road Surface Management System, developed in partnership with the University of New Hampshire and the Lakes Region Planning Commission, and his proposals for the coming year (2,000+/- l.f. of Paradise Drive, 7,000+/- l.f. Winaukee Road, 2,000+/- l.f. Geneva Point Road, 550+/- l.f. Randall Road). He emphasized the concentration of our efforts needed to be on several maintenance methods to extend the life of the pavement as opposed to waiting until more expensive and comprehensive rebuilds are needed.

Q: Agent Kinmond was asked if UNH issues new cost data each year.

A: He replied that they will input that using local data. In year one we ended up using Meredith's cost data.

Q: What training did the LRPC interns have to rate the roads?

A: An actual condition manual (Engineering Interns).

Q: Were traffic volumes taken into account? Many of the streets proposed to upgrade don't seem to get a lot of traffic.

A: Agent Kinmond replied that it was one of the factors.

Q: Who was the developer of Paradise Drive because now we have to reconstruct it? Can't we put this cost on the developers?

A: Agent Kinmond said it was before him and goes back to the 80's. Mr. Mudgett spoke to the Betterment Improvement at Balmoral and being discouraged by the conditions we now have. The Town Planner, Dan Merhalski spoke to the current effort to be more vigilant in both design review and construction oversight of such private developments before accepting the roadways. Mr. Merhalski said we need to be more vigilant in overseeing this construction.

Q: When will the Town get to the second section of Paradise Drive?

A: Following up on the previous question, Highway Agent Kinmond said that it is imperative that we have a qualified clerk of the works on these projects. He saw it with

this season's construction. He advised that the second section of Paradise will be \$1 million plus and he does not know when they can come back to it. He added that if the Town wants to consider bonding, we can look at tackling bigger projects/sections. This section was chosen as it is causing the Highway Department more maintenance problems.

There being no further questions or comments the Chair closed the Road Hearing at 7:37 p.m.

II. Budget Hearing: The Chair explained the account consolidation which went from 67 departments two years ago down to 20 this year. She then began a line by line review of the proposed operating budget followed by capital and trust items and revenue projections.

Q: The Town expended \$200,000 on Executive, but why is the budget \$400,000?

A: Primarily it is in the Contingency of \$135,000. There is \$110,000 toward the Town's many projects, the Thornton reclassification study is \$25,000 to implement, and there are smaller miscellaneous items.

The Chair went on to review Public Safety, Public Works, Human Services (increase driven primarily by housing rental payments), and the VNS. Phyllis Prouty, Library Board of Trustees, read a statement in appreciation of community support.

There were a number of questions on some budget transfers during the year. The Board was asked if the VNS expense include the cost of the police cruiser replacement. The Board replied that it does not. Is it normal practice to expend monies from one account to cover another? This is done to keep the budget items balanced. The Selectmen were asked to justify why they told the voters the Town needed the money for one thing, and then used it for another. The response was that the Selectmen have control over the bottom line, and when needed transfer money throughout the year to keep the department line from being overdrawn. A transfer receives approval during public session after the Department Head has shown it was truly needed.

Q: What was the \$5,000 cost on the Recreation Feasibility Study?

A: The Town used remaining dollars in the original study to revisit the RSPT plan. It resulted in the Phasing plan which was then partially funded with the soccer field monies.

Q: Why is Recreation up \$24,000?

A: There is an added \$8,000 for senior programming and the 3 employees experienced the same 16% increase in benefits as all others.

Q: What did the increase cost for all employees and what is it Department by Department?

A: About \$150,000 for Health/Pension. Breakdowns by department were not available.

Q: Under what account are the Pathway dollars?

A: They are in the Capital Accounts.

Q: With accounts mingled does the department head have freedom to do what they want?

A: Mr. Charest replied that they do not. He pointed to his budget book (250+/- pages) to illustrate there remains a detailed breakdown for all departments and they must make sure that certain budgeted items (like the Fireworks) are done. They can't just go use those dollars on something else.

Q: The term Mosquito Abatement seems indicative of causing the problem to go away (abate, cessation) yet it really is a testing program. It is disingenuous to let people think this is a control program.

A: The citizen was asked to submit a better name if he could think of one.

Q: The Selectmen were asked why, in the current climate, the Town continues with a program for something (EEE/West Nile) not found to be in Town.

A: They responded that the infected mosquitoes are moving this way and the Town wants to be proactive not reactive.

Q: Tom Howard asked if this contract went out to bid.

A: The Selectmen replied that it did not.

Q: The Selectmen were asked if they have given consideration to have two firms (one for testing one for control) as a check and balance.

A: They responded they have not.

A member of the audience made a statement on the dangers of other pests (such as ticks and Lyme disease) and perhaps the Town should look at those as well if we are going to spend money on this.

Q: A member of the audience stated that she was aware that there is something in the Mosquito Abatement files that offers the town a break if we can bring other towns in. The Selectmen were asked if they've looked at regionalization to get a break off of our fee if we bring others in.

A: The Selectmen replied that they were not aware of this offer.

Q: The Selectmen were asked if they would unbundle this question of Mosquito Control from the balance of the article.

A: The Chair said the Town can vote to amend it out and they will respect the reason for a new bottom line. Mr. Mudgett said the bundling is to reduce the number of articles/votes and preventing Town Meeting from being overly lengthy. The questioner then made a formal request for the Board to split it out and was told the Board would consider it.

Q: The Selectmen were asked what is meant by a fleet vehicle.

A: Presently the Recreation Department is using a hand me down old. What is proposed is one vehicle for all departments. Mr. Mudgett commented that by the time the Police Department gets rid of a cruiser they aren't worth much.

Q: The Selectmen were asked what taxpayers are involved in PILOTs (payment in lieu of taxes)

A: Camp Tecumseh, Geneva Point, and West Wynde have PILOT agreements. The shown payment did not include the first two which came in after January 1. There was discussion of the actual versus accrual amounts on this and other accounts.

Q: The Selectmen were asked if there was money left in the community center fund.

A: They replied that there is, as the project (soccer fields) did not start construction and the money remains there until actual work is done.

- Q: The Selectmen were asked about the carryovers, with \$400,000 left, and where does that money go.
- A: It goes into the fund balance and then a portion of that is annually used to lower the tax rate (this year about \$950,000). Approximately \$1,250,000 remains in the fund balance.
- Q: A member of the audience observed that Fox Hollow has a private road sign on it and asked if the Town should we be putting Town money into it.
- A: The Selectmen replied that the first 500 feet is a Town Road and it is the Town's intersection. Mr. Mudgett said the real reason we are in this is that we had a group pushing it and they went to Concord and brought us a lot of money toward the project.
- Q: The Selectmen were asked that with the debt paid off, the overall budget is up approximately \$475,000.
- A: The Selectmen agreed, but pointed out that the Town would not have been able to increase the road program and keep services intact if we simply had cut all of the requests by that \$475,000. The bottom line is that the Town is only asking the taxpayers for a .1% increase in real estate taxes over last year.

Jean Beadle presented the ABC recommendations and thanked the Selectmen and Town Administrator for their cooperation. The ABC comments are not to be construed as negatives and many items from last year are done, such as: Account consolidation, creating a consolidated DPW, Pavement Management, hiring a Town Planner, and Transfer Station Improvements. This year there is a zero cost of living adjustment (COLA).

- Q: The Selectmen were asked and stated that there are approximately 60+/- Town employees with salaries at approximately \$2,250,000. In addition, they were asked how many are getting their steps.
- A: The Chair explained that there is no COLA this year. The Board considers the Employee Policy a contract with the Town employees and they will get their steps if they deserve them. However, if their position was to be reclassified they will get their new grade and not a step. The Chair said not one employee came to us to ask why they are not getting a raise and I commend them. Jean Beadle points out these steps and reclassifications are performance based. There followed considerable discussion with several members of the audience and the Chair explained the employee contribution to benefits.

Ms. Beadle continued, that the recommendations this year concentrated on a Merit Pay system, moving to Bi-weekly Payroll (and outsourcing that), bulking more of the road work through funding or other financing alternatives; Changing of Fiscal Year; putting benefits out to bid (consolidated with schools) and reviewing employee contribution rates. The ABC's major concern is the looming donor town issue, our aging population and declining school enrollments.

- Q: The Selectmen were asked what is the advantage of changing the fiscal year.
- A: The Town will be on the same year as the schools, we will have more time to get projects out to bid and completed, the budget will be in place before the year actually begins and we can move the Town Meeting to May and hopefully see better attendance.

The Chair announced that the Selectmen put the petitioned articles on the Warrant in the order in which they were received. There being no further questions, the Budget Hearing closed at 8:51 p.m.

Joel Made a Motion to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a). Ed Seconded. Karel called for a roll call: Jim – Aye; Betsey – Aye; Ed – Aye; Joel – Aye; Karel – Aye. The Selectmen went into Non-Public Session at 8:57 p.m.

The Board exited Non-Public Session at 9:19 p.m. having voted by a vote of 2/3 or greater of the members present to not disclose the minutes and decisions reached therein to the public, as divulgence of the information discussed likely would affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of the public body itself, until - in the opinion of a majority of the members - the aforesaid circumstances no longer apply.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT:** Joel Made the Motion to Adjourn. Betsey Seconded.  
Motion Carried Unanimously.  
Karel adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

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Approved

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Date  
Respectfully Submitted  
Carter Terenzini, Town Administrator